

09/005261

Abstract

The invention relates to a method of producing a skeleton for a steering wheel rim made of sheet metal, the method comprising the following steps: a flat metal blank is cut in such a way that it has a ring-shaped section, the ring-shaped section is deformed in such a way that it acquires a hollow profile which in cross-section encloses an angle of more than 180°, and the deformation is carried out at least partially in that the ring-shaped section is moved between two rotatable rollers. The invention further relates to a steering wheel produced by the method proposed. Such a steering wheel has a hollow steering wheel rim including a center channel for delivering cooling air. The channel is defined by the open hollow profile and by a shell part placed onto the profile.

EK956009257US )

I hereby certify that this paper or fee is being deposited with the U. S. Postal Service "Express Mail Post Office - to Addresses" service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated below and is addressed to the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Washington, D.C. 20521.

12-30-01 Date of Deposit

Signature of Person Making Paper or Fee

DERORATH DEW

12-30-01 Date of Signature